

REMARKS

Claims 21, 23, and 24 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The examiner notes that means plus function language is employed in the claims.

The claims have been amended hereby to eliminate the means plus function language and to refer to the exact language employed in the specification. For example, in claim 21, the retaining means and the supplying means are in fact the film retaining and supplying section shown at 74 in Fig. 8 and described in the specification at page 39. Similarly, the film opening and closing means is in fact the film opening and closing section as shown at 75 in Fig. 8 and described at page 40 of the specification. The heat and pressure bonding means of claim 21 is in fact the rollers 115 and 116, as shown in Fig. 8.

Similar amendments have been made to claims 23 and 24 to eliminate the objected-to language of the means plus function.

Notice is respectfully taken of the indication that the claims in the application are patentably distinct and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112. In that regard, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims hereby do in fact overcome those objections.

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Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly distinguishable.

Jay H. Maioli  
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JHM:tb